

MEMBERS' COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

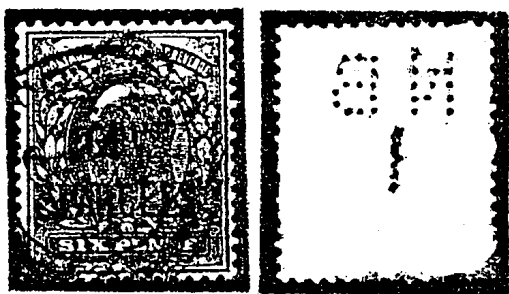
Official Overprint & Perfin Combined Bulletin 283 Pg.17.

From Tony Llewellyn-Edwards.

In issue 283, we saw the report of an Admiralty Official issue with perfin RA/T, and this caused me some doubt.

Why was this issue perfinned? Who could have perfinned it legally? Who would have wanted to perfin it? These stamps were issued for the use of the Admiralty and they were not available to the general public (except for a very short time at Somerset House). The possession of mint examples by the public was illegal until their use was discontinued. The Admiralty had no reason to perfin them - they had no monetary value - and no one else should have had access to mint examples. Often stamps were used to repay small debts and on receipt they were sometimes perfinned by the receiving company, but who would have paid a debt with an illegally held stamp?

I fear this may be a forgery, being a perfinned stamp overprinted at a later date with a faked overprint, by a forger who did not understand the impossibility of such an item. It is not possible to make a definite judgement from the illustration in the Bulletin, but the original should be carefully looked at. Genuine examples were very well overprinted using a metal die giving sharp even letters, whereas the illustration has the uneven look of a rubber stamp giving rough uneven letters.



It is not possible to be certain from the illustration, but as an example I am showing a similar item from my own collection which I am sure is a forgery. The colour of the stamp and the heavy pmk make it difficult to photocopy clearly.

It is a faked Government Parcels Official, with the perfin NB/I. Careful inspection of the overprint shows that it was produced by a rubber stamp. The letters are rough and uneven and the last few letters in each word are significantly larger than the first few indicating that the rubber stamp was applied with uneven pressure and distorted more on the right hand side so

increasing the apparent size of the letters.

This is an example of a faker who was not fully knowledgeable about the subject to be faked, being caught out by the use of a perfined stamp amongst the (presumably) many that were faked.